What is claimed is:

1. A portable terminal unit comprising:

a lid portion foldable with respect to a case main body and installed on said case main body rotatably;

a display provided on said lid portion; and

a picture taking device disposed on said case main body.

2. The portable terminal unit according to claim 1, wherein said picture taking device is disposed on the rear face of a flat portion of said case main body.

3. The portable terminal unit according to claim 1, wherein said picture taking device is disposed on a side face of said case main body.

4. The portable terminal unit according to claim 1 further comprising:

an operating device for selecting a menu item by moving a cursor on the menu displayed on said display and determining an item by pressing, wherein

a picture taking mode for taking a picture is selected by operating said operating device and the picture taking action by said picture taking device is carried out by pressing said operating device.

5. The portable terminal unit according to claim 4 further comprising an image encoding/decoding device for

12

encoding a taken picture to generae an encoded image.

6. The portable terminal unit according to claim 5 further comprising a data transmitting device for transmitting said encoded image.

7. The portable terminal unit according to claim 4 further comprising an image encoding/decoding device for encoding a taken picture to generate an encoded image and storing said encoded image in a memory.

8. The portable terminal unit according to claim 7, wherein an image to be transmitted is selected by operating said operating device.

9. The portable terminal unit according to claim 8, wherein the selected image is displayed on said display prior to transmission.

10. The portable terminal unit according to claim 9, wherein the selected image is read out from said memory as an encoded image encoded by said encoding/decoding device and a decoded image is displayed on said display after decoding said encoded image.